

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OPORTO 00007 170915Z
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FM AMCONSUL OPORTO
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INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L OPORTO 0007

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: PAP FROM THE RIGHT

REF: LISBON 0364

1. PAP INFORMATION: ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS ACCOUNTS, THE NEW PORTUGUESE ALLIANCE PARTY (PAP) WILL SHORTLY COMPLETE THE COLLECTION OF 5000 SIGNATURES IN ORDER FOR PARTY TO BE LEGALIZED BY END OF JANUARY. AS REPORTED REFTEL PARA 3, POTENTIAL PAP SUPPORTERS HELD A SERIES OF MEETINGS OVER PAST WEEKEND IN OPORTO. AT LEAST 50 WERE REPORTEDLY IN ATTENDANCE AT ONE SESSION DEVOTED TO PARTY STATUTES AND ORGANIZATION FOR POSSIBLE FIRST PAP CONGRESS AT MID-YEAR.

2. PAP FOUNDERS: PRIME MOVERS INCLUDE CDS DISSIDENT MANUEL PIRES DE MORAIS, HENRIQUE FORMOSINHO DE SOUSA E MELO OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDC) , MARIO EMILIO DE AZEVEDO WHO WAS FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE MONARCHIST PARTY (PPM), LUIS AROUCA WHO BELONGED TO NOW DEFUNCT RIGHT-WING INDEPENDENT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PSDI), AND JOSE PINHEIRO DA SILVA A CONSERVATIVE JOURNALIST AND REFUGEE. MORAIS HAS DONE ALL THE PUBLIC TALKING TO DATE. HE IS 53-YEAR OLD OPORTO FURNITURE
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PAGE 02 OPORTO 00007 170915Z

BUSINESSMAN WHO HAS DUBIOUS DISTINCTION OF BEING THE ONLY CDS CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLYMAN WHO WAS NOT PROPOSED AS CANDIDATE FOR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BY OPORTO DISTRICT. LOCAL CDS SOURCE SAID REFUSAL WAS BASED ON OUTSPOKEN AUTHORITARIAN ATTITUDES OF MORAIS AND HIS REFUSAL TO ACCEPT ANY SORT OF PARTY DISCIPLINE.

3. PAP IDEOLOGY: IN HIS STATEMENTS TO PRESS, MORAIS CALLED PAP A "RIGHT OF CENTER" PARTY WHICH WOULD MORE RIGOROUSLY DEFEND THE HISTORICAL, POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL PRINCIPLES OF TRUE PORTUGUESE. PAP MIGHT ALLY ITSELF IN A FUTURE GOVERNMENT WITH PSD OR CDS, BUT NEVER WITH PCP. ANY TIES WITH THE PS WOULD BE DIFFICULT BECAUSE MORAIS SAID THE SOCIALISTS HAD SO MANY FACTIONS. PAP ECONOMIC OUTLOOK IS STRICTLY FREE ENTERPRISE. PAP WILL BE A LAY PARTY BUT "INSPIRED" BY CHURCH DOCTRINES.

4. THE FUTURE OF PAP: THE TIMING OF PAP'S FORMATION STRIKES LOCAL OBSERVERS AS STRANGE WITH NO ELECTIONS ON THE IMMEDIATE HORIZON. AS A CONSERVATIVE ANTI-COMMUNIST PARTY WITH STRONG OVERTONES OF CHURCH (OPUS DEI?) AND PATRIOTISM, THE PARTY'S GREATEST APPEAL WILL BE DIRECTED TOWARD THE MAJORITY OF THOSE WHO ABSTAINED FROM VOTING IN THE NORTH. IT WILL BE AN UPHILL STRUGGLE SINCE NORTHERN PORTUGUESE HAVE ALREADY DEMONSTRATED SCANT SUPPORT TO SPLINTER PARTIES EITHER RIGHT OR LEFT. SEVERAL PROMINENT CONSERVATIVE GENERALS HAVE ALREADY REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE IN PAP BUT THE POSITION OF KAULZA DE ARRIAGA IS NOT YET CLARIFIED.

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